

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 1-44 have been canceled and replaced by new claims 45-93.

The replacement claims render the restriction requirements moot. However, for the record, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the restriction requirements set forth in the Office Action. In the event that the Examiner maintains the restrictions, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Species I, III, V and VII for examination. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected Species at a later date.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirements. Species II, IV, VI and VIII are not independent or distinct from Species I, III, V and VII. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, claim 16, for example, is not limited to a removing step taking place during an evacuation step. Instead, original claim 16 specifically recites that the removing step is undertaken in conjunction with the evacuating step. By such recitation, the removing step may be undertaken before, during or after the evacuating step. In fact, claim 17 is dependent on claim 16, which further recites that the removing step recited in claim 16 is undertaken after the evacuating step. Claim 16 is therefore generic to claim 17. Consequently, claim 17 cannot be restricted with respect to claim 16. The same reasoning applies to the restrictions of claims 28 and 29, claims 30 and 31, and claims 32 and 33.

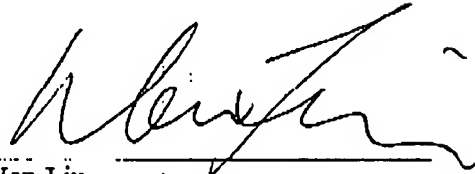
Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 45 - 93 are not subject to restriction.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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